

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to point out the invention more clearly. Specifically, the subject matter of claims 4, 11, and 13 has been incorporated into claim 1. Furthermore, claim 1 now also recites that the surfactant in its isolated state is sufficiently solid so that it is pourable. Support for this amendment may be found at page 6, lines 18-19 of the specification.

Claims 1-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dovey in view of Tadsen or in the alternative of Spadoni over Tadsen.

The amended claims distinguish more clearly over the cited art. Dovey does not teach the particle size of the solid surfactant and furthermore, does not teach extremely low amount of the surfactant particles in its compositions. See particle VI specifically cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Spadoni does not teach the particle sizes of the surfactant or the extremely small amount of the surfactant in its examples of the effervescent granules, unless LAS is taught, which the present claims recite the substantial absence of. See examples of Spadoni, e.g. dry effervescent granules on page 54 and subsequent examples. Tadsen does not appear to cure the shortcomings of Dovey and Spadoni. Tadsen teaches an extremely broad range of surfactant size about 100 to 3,500 microns preferably from 200 to 2,000, whereas in the present invention particularly small-sized particles are used (150 to 800 microns). The selection of small-sized particles allows a more uniform distribution and thus requires less binder (hence, extremely low amount of surfactant particles in the granules of the present invention).

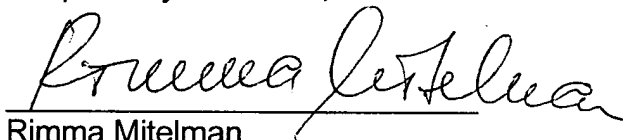
It is not seen how one of ordinary skill in the art, who has not had the benefit of hindsight afforded by the present disclosure, would have been led by either Dovey/Tadsen or Spadoni/Tadsen combination to employ effervescent granules

which are substantially free of alkyl benzene sulfonate, employ specific surfactant which is sufficiently solid such that it is pourable in its isolated state, employ extremely small-sized surfactant particles and to employ relatively low surfactant levels. It is not seen what in the cited documents would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to pick these features, modify them, and then combine them in such a way as to attain applicants' effervescent granules.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejections over Dovey in view of Tadsen or, in the alternative, Spadoni in view of Tadsen be reconsidered and withdrawn. It is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rimma Mitelman", written over a horizontal line.

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